



Chapter 8

The Queen's Croquet-Ground

A LARGE rose-tree stood near the entrance of the garden: the roses growing on it were white, but

114

THE QUEEN'S CROQUET-GROUND

there were three gardeners tending them red. Alice thought them very nice, and she went nearer to watch them. When she came up to them, she saw the King, the Queen, and the Knave, and she said, "Look out now, Five! Don't let the Queen tread over me like that!"

"I couldn't help it," said the King. "Seven jogged my elbow."

On which Seven looked at the King right, Five! Always lay the blame on the other!

"You'd better not talk!" said the Queen. "You say only yesterday you were headed."

"What for?" said the King.

"That's none of your business," said Seven.

"Yes, it is his business," said Alice. "I'll tell him—it was for bringing me here instead of onions."

Seven flung down his ball and said, "Well, of all the unjust things that have chanced to fall upon Alice, this is the most. I looked round also, and saw the King and the Queen and the Knave, and they all looked round also, and they all looked at me."

"Would you tell me, please," said Alice timidly, "why you are paid so much?"